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WASHINGTON TIMES  
2 September 1985

# Bonn adds up damage from defection of top counterspy

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES FOREIGN SERVICE

GENEVA, Switzerland — West German intelligence officials tried over the weekend to assess the damage done by the defection to East Germany of a top-ranked counterespionage officer.

The government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl has promised to make an announcement tomorrow about the scandal and the damage-control measures that have been taken.

The central question still is how long Hans-Joachim Tiedge, whose defection to East Germany was announced last weekend, was working for the communists during his 19 years with the Cologne-based counterintelligence agency.

Western intelligence, including U.S., British, and French agencies, are reviewing every counterespionage decision involving East Germany since 1966 and are checking on every person with whom Mr. Tiedge may have come in contact.

Mr. Tiedge, 48, is reputed to have a photographic memory. West German authorities are acting on the assumption that he knew every

name and every counterintelligence method employed by the Bonn government against East Germany and other Warsaw Pact countries.

It is feared he may be able to give the East Germans precious information about Western "moles" operating behind the Iron Curtain.

Security experts also pointed out that Mr. Tiedge had worked closely for several years with Heribert Hellenbroich, his immediate supervisor until last month, who was fired by Chancellor Kohl last week for keeping Mr. Tiedge at his post despite fairly widespread knowledge of personal problems involving alcohol, indebtedness and depression.

Defending his decision to retain Mr. Tiedge in the face of many internal complaints about his "excessive behavior," Mr. Hellenbroich said that Mr. Tiedge's dismissal would have been a "high risk" for Western intelligence, and would have "jeopardized an important operation in progress."

Mr. Hellenbroich did not elaborate on the "operation in progress," but some sources have said Mr. Tiedge had already been uncovered by West German counterintel-

ligence and the government was preparing to use him to feed disinformation to the East Germans.

Mr. Hellenbroich, in an interview on Swiss television yesterday, cautioned against hysteria over the widening scandal and said his country would weather the blow.

While stating that the government's most important task is to limit any damage that might have been caused by the defection, he also said "one should not overdramatize this."

"It is not as if the very foundations of the Federal Republic's whole counterespionage have now begun to totter," he said.

Despite the recent spy scandal, West Germany wants to avoid setbacks in its relations with communist East Germany, its chief government spokesman said yesterday.

In an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio of Cologne, Friedhelm Ost said the government of Chancellor Kohl did not want to "rip asunder" the lines of communication with its neighbor. "It is also in East Berlin's interest to continue talking with us," Mr. Ost said. "In politics,

cool heads must prevail."

Relations between East and West Germany have been irritated in the past by espionage cases, particularly in 1974 when Gunter Guillaume, a top aide to former Chancellor Willy Brandt, was unmasked as an East German spy.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Hans Engelhard promised clemency yesterday to any communist spies who might still be lurking in the government if they give themselves up. Mr. Engelhard made the offer in a statement published in the mass circulation newspaper, Bild, which also reported that Mr. Tiedge's oldest daughter, Andrea, 18, has written to East German leader Erich Honecker in the hope she can convince her father to return.

West Germany's NATO partners are looking closely at the implications of some of the arrests that followed Mr. Tiedge's flight, notably the apprehension in Bonn of Margaret Hoecke, 50, a secretary in the office of West German President Richard von Weizsaecker.

Her job in the president's office gave her access to sensitive information about military and foreign

affairs, as well as minutes of Cabinet meetings and other top-secret documents.

In the spring of 1983, Miss Hoecke was present during NATO's "Wintex" exercise on conflict management held in the West German government's highly secret nuclear war bunker south of the capital.

In the event of nuclear war, the West German government would move to the bunker to direct defensive operations.

The disappearance of Sonja Lueneburg, 60, a secretary in the office of Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, is likewise being viewed with alarm.

Miss Lueneburg worked for Mr. Bangemann — who is also chairman of the Free Democratic Party — for 12 years, and was in a good position to learn of West German plans on East-West trade, technology transfers and arms sales.

Western intelligence experts have been puzzled by the relative silence from East Germany on the defections of the suspected spies.

Unlike previous episodes of this nature, the East Germans have not

paraded Mr. Tiedge before the television cameras and they have not trumpeted his defection in the rigidly controlled media.

This has led some analysts to embrace what is being called the "best-case scenario," in which it is suggested Mr. Tiedge was not a communist agent at all, but a seriously ill man who fled in the face of insurmountable personal difficulties.

In addition to a diabetic condition aggravated by alcoholism, he had incurred an indebtedness in excess of \$100,000 since his wife died in an automobile accident three years ago.

Other analysts, those who support the "worst-case scenario," say Mr. Tiedge was, in fact, a communist agent, and the only reason the East Germans have not made capital of his defection is they did not want to rock the economic boat ahead of the important Leipzig trade fair, which opened this weekend and where the East Germans can sign important deals with West German firms.

This article is based in part on wire service reports.